



wherein

Ar^1 is an optionally substituted aromatic or C_{1-9} heteroaromatic group containing one to four heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur;

L^1 is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group selected from $-\text{CON}(\text{R}^2)-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{N}(\text{R}^2)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^2)-$, and $-\text{O}-$;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-3} alkyl group;

Ar^2 is an optionally substituted phenylene group;

R^1 is a group selected from $-\text{NHCOR}^3$, $-\text{NHSO}_2\text{R}^3$, $-\text{NHR}^3$, $-\text{NHC}(\text{O})\text{OR}^3$, $-\text{NHCSR}^3$, $-\text{NHCON}(\text{R}^3)(\text{R}^{3a})$, $-\text{NHSO}_2\text{N}(\text{R}^3)(\text{R}^{3a})$, and $-\text{NHCSN}(\text{R}^3)(\text{R}^{3a})$;

R^3 is an optionally substituted C_{3-10} cycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted C_{7-10} polycycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted C_{3-10} heterocycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{S})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^8-$, $-\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{CSN}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CO}-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CS}-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CON}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CSN}(\text{R}^8)-$ and $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$; an optionally substituted C_{7-10} heteropolycycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $\text{OC}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(\text{S})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^8-$, $-\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{CSN}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CO}-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CS}-$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CON}(\text{R}^8)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CSN}(\text{R}^8)-$ and $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$; an

optionally substituted aromatic group, or an optionally substituted C₁₋₉ heteroaromatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur;

R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ aliphatic group, an optionally substituted C₁₋₆ heteroaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, -N(R⁸)-, -C(O)NR⁸-, -OC(O)N(R⁸)-, -CSN(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)CO-, -N(R⁸)C(O)O-, -N(R⁸)CS-, -S(O)₂N(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)S(O)₂-, -N(R⁸)CON(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)CSN(R⁸)- and -N(R⁸)SO₂N(R⁸)-; an optionally substituted C₃₋₁₀ cycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted C₇₋₁₀ polycycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted C₃₋₁₀ heterocycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, -N(R⁸)-, -C(O)NR⁸-, -OC(O)N(R⁸)-, -CSN(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)CO-, -N(R⁸)C(O)O-, -N(R⁸)CS-, -S(O)₂N(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)S(O)₂-, -N(R⁸)CON(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)CSN(R⁸)- and -N(R⁸)SO₂N(R⁸)-; an optionally substituted C₇₋₁₀ heteropolycycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, -N(R⁸)-, -C(O)NR⁸-, -OC(O)N(R⁸)-, -CSN(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)CO-, -N(R⁸)C(O)O-, -N(R⁸)CS-, -S(O)₂N(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)S(O)₂-, -N(R⁸)CON(R⁸)-, -N(R⁸)CSN(R⁸)- and -N(R⁸)SO₂N(R⁸)-; an optionally substituted aromatic group, or an optionally substituted C₁₋₉ heteroaromatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur;

R^a and R^a , which may be the same or different, are each independently selected from a hydrogen or halogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkylthio or $-(Alk^b)_mR^b$ group (in which Alk^b is a C_{1-3} alkylene chain, m is zero or the integer 1, and R^b is $-OH$, $-SH$, $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2R^c$ (where R^c is an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl group), $-SO_3H$, $-SOR^c$, $-SO_2R^c$, $-SO_3R^c$, $-OCO_2R^c$, $-C(O)H$, $-C(O)R^c$, $-OC(O)R^c$, $-C(S)R^c$, $-NR^dR^e$ (where R^d and R^e , which may be the same or different, are each a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl group), $-CON(R^d)(R^e)$, $-OC(O)N(R^d)(R^e)$, $-N(R^d)C(O)R^e$, $-CSN(R^d)(R^e)$, $-N(R^d)C(S)R^e$, $-S(O)_2N(R^d)(R^e)$, $-N(R^d)SO_2R^e$, $-N(R^d)CON(R^e)(R^f)$ (where R^f is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6} alkyl group), $-N(R^d)C(S)N(R^e)(R^f)$ or $-N(R^d)SO_2N(R^e)(R^f)$ group);

Alk^a is an optionally substituted C_{1-6} aliphatic or C_{1-6} heteroaliphatic chain containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from $-O-$, $-S-$, $-C(O)-$, $-C(O)O-$, $OC(O)-$, $-C(S)-$, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)-$, $-C(O)NR^8-$, $-OC(O)N(R^8)-$, $-CSN(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CO-$, $-N(R^8)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^8)CS-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)CON(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CSN(R^8)-$, and $-N(R^8)SO_2N(R^8)-$;

r is zero or the integer 1;

R is a carboxylic acid (CO_2H), a carboxylic ester group, or carboxylic amide group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.